

A Brief History of World War II

1. WWII occurred from 1939 – 1945
 2. WWII was the largest conflict the world has EVER seen.
 3. There were more countries involved in WWII than any other battle.
 4. There were more than 61 million deaths in WWII.
- * After WWI Germany lost a lot of power until Hitler came to rule. He began a strict military regime, and Germany started taking over land.
 - Germany annexed Austria in 1938
 - Germany invaded Poland in 1939
 - * Poland however had an alliance with Britain and France, so they now became enemies of Germany as well.
 - * On September 17, 1939 the Soviet Union (who at the time was an alliance of Germany) also invaded Poland.
 - * By 1940 Germany had invaded Denmark and Norway. While the USSR had invaded the Baltic and attacked Finland.
 - * Germany began gaining more and more power as they acquired more territory. Germany then invaded Belgium, The Netherlands, and parts of France.

- * On June 22, 1941 Germany BROKE THEIR ALLIANCE and invaded RUSSIA. They were slowly moving towards the capital, which they were trying to control. They also conquered the Ukraine.
- * Germany began losing power when there was a turn around at the battle of “Stalingrad” in 1942. 2 million people died, however this was the first defeat of the German army. After this defeat they never regained their momentum, which allowed Russian armies to push Germany out of Russia.
- * By 1943 England had defeated Germany as well, and Germany was pushed out of Africa also.
- * While all of this turmoil was going on in Europe there was also a war going on in Asia. It started when Japan invaded China in the early 1930’s.

- * In an effort to stop Japan from fighting in China the United States, Britain, and the Netherlands stopped trading with Japan.
- * Japan took this as a threat and on December 7, 1941 the Japanese Navy attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor.
- * At the same time Germany declared war on the United States, drawing America into the war from two angles.
- * Germany's power was still slowly being stopped for three main reasons.
 1. Russia used all of their military power to push Germany out of their territory.
 2. The invasion of France by the Western Allies (Britain, France, The US, and Canada) on June 6, 1944
 3. The Open Market Garden allies captured bridges to open a way into Germany.

- * At this point all was seemingly lost for Germany, and they had no choice but to surrender. Hitler committed suicide at this time in his bunker.
- * The final surrender happened and the war IN EUROPE was considered over on Monday, May 7, 1945.
- * However there was still fighting going on in Asia.
- * Japan began to fight a defensive war. They were facing many military defeats.
- * The US bombed the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with the first atomic bomb. This caused Japan to finally surrender.
- * The final surrender occurred on September 2, 1945.

Main Allied Powers

- Canada
- China
- France
- Soviet Union
- United Kingdom
- United States

Other Allied powers

- Australia
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Czechoslovakia
- Denmark
- France -- Free French
- Greece
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Poland
- South Africa
- Yugoslavia

Main Axis Powers

- Germany -- Nazi Germany
- Italy
- Japan

Other Axis Powers

- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Finland
- Hungary
- Iran
- Iraq
- Romania
- Slovakia



A VISUAL of the EVENTS of WWII



http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/media_nm.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10005137&MediaId=3376







